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Kresge Project Fund Review Committee,

January 15, 2013

I would like to enthusiastically recommend John Ash, Darrel Deo, Shehadeh Dajani, and David Goodman for Kresge Student Project Funds assistance with their project: the Autonomous Lifeguard. This is an ambitious project that has real world application with the potential to save lives. This group is dedicated, has the requisite skills, and I am actively mentoring them on the project. I have taught challenging courses where each of them have stood out as bright individuals who are among the top in their class. Their history of success in my classes and in my lab demonstrates the proficiency necessary for success with this project.

Initially, the students approached me for advice and input concerning their project; and I have agreed to mentor them. They have been hard at work, making progress even over the winter break.

All four students have taken an introduction to mechatronic design course that I teach. The curriculum consists of challenging lab exercises and a demanding final project. The project requires the students to work in teams of three to construct autonomous robots to compete with each other in a game of capture the flag, all while earning points by striking each other with ping pong balls. All did well on the project, and two are current tutors for the class.

These students are ambitious, hardworking, and capable. I believe their project has every chance of success and that they will do their utmost to ensure it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a need for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Hugh Elkaim".

Gabriel Hugh Elkaim
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